



United States Attorney District of New Jersey

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FOUR NEW JERSEY MEN CHARGED IN BI-COASTAL MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING AND MONEY LAUNDERING RING

Over 100 Kilos of Marijuana and at Least \$2 Million in Cash Seized By Law Enforcement

NEWARK, N.J. – Four New Jersey men were charged today in a federal criminal Complaint with conspiring to traffic large quantities of illegal, California-grown marijuana into the New Jersey and New York metropolitan area for sale and then launder the proceeds, United States Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Michael Vacchiano, 46, of Weehawken; William Mabey Sr., 72, of Montville; Cris Rosenvinge, 32, of Parlin; and Kenneth Martin, 41, of North Bergen were arrested yesterday by federal agents during the execution of search warrants pursuant to an ongoing investigation into the trafficking ring. Law enforcement agents seized over 100 kilograms of marijuana and more than \$2 million in cash in searches executed in concert with the arrests.

All four defendants appeared this afternoon before United States Magistrate Judge Madeline Cox Arleo in Newark federal court and were released on bail.

According to the Complaint filed today in Newark federal court:

Vacchiano, Mabey, Rosenvinge and Martin schemed with others to produce marijuana at a property in Miranda, Calif. and then ship it from California to multiple addresses in the New Jersey and New York metropolitan area via U.S. Mail. The marijuana parcels – each containing approximately 17 to 20 pounds of marijuana – were then collected from the delivery addresses by Vacchiano, Mabey and others and transported by privately-owned vehicle to Vacchiano's Weehawken residence. Members of the scheme distributed the drugs out of Vacchiano's garage.

Members of the scheme packed most of the cash from the marijuana sales into parcels that they sent back across the country from the New York and New Jersey area via U.S. mail and other shipping services. The cash was sent to addresses controlled by members of the scheme in the Novato, Calif. area as payment for their work and to finance additional marijuana production.

Each of the four defendants is charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. If convicted, the maximum potential penalty for the drug offense is 40 years in prison – with a five year mandatory minimum – and a fine of \$2 million or twice the gross gain resulting from the offense. The maximum potential penalty for the money laundering offense is 20 years in prison

and a maximum fine of twice the gross gain resulting from the offense.

U.S. Attorney Fishman praised postal inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Postal Inspector David Collins, and special agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge John G. McCabe Jr., for the multi-state, continuing investigation which led to the Complaint. He also thanked special agents of IRS – Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Victor W. Lessoff, for their work in the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall H. Cook of the United States Attorney's Office Narcotics/Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Unit in Newark.

The charges and allegations made in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are considered innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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Defense counsel:

Vacchiano: Samuel Deluca, Esq., Jersey City, N.J.

Mabey: Linda Foster, Esq., Assistant Federal Public Defender, Newark, N.J

Martin: Darren Gelber, Esq., Woodbridge, N.J.

Rosenvinge: Donald Yannella, Esq., New York, N.Y.